

OREGON CROP WEATHER



**NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE**

USDA, NASS, Oregon Field Office

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Weather: Record high temperatures were reported this past week throughout the State as many records for this time of year were broken. High temperatures ranged from 109 degrees in The Dalles, down to 63 degrees at the Crescent City station. Low temperatures ranged from 59 degrees in Portland, down to 37 degrees at the Christmas Valley and Redmond stations. Half of the stations reported high temperatures of at least 100 degrees. Only six out of the forty three stations reported any precipitation. The Agency Lake station reported the largest amount with only .08 inches. Temperatures were well above average and precipitation levels were still well below normal throughout the State.

Field Crops: Wheat yield reports continued to be mixed, even within local. Some areas reported lower test weights. Active week for alfalfa harvest. Potato yield potential in Umatilla/Morrow area looked better than it did after the cool spring. Red clover ready for swather. Hop harvest started. Grass seed harvest, like wheat, was still significant but mostly done. Also like wheat, yields varied more than usual.

Vegetables: Farmer's markets and roadside stands were going strong and were offering an abundance of produce throughout the State. Sweet corn was reported to be readily available throughout the Willamette Valley. Tomatoes were yielding succulent fruit in Washington County. Corn was showing a poor pollination, tomatoes have been slow to ripen, and truck gardens were selling locally grown melons in Josephine County.

Fruits and Nuts: The blueberry harvest was winding down in southwestern Oregon with just a few late fields to go. Yields were reported to be down about 15 percent from last year. Wine grape crops were looking good and were only about a week behind schedule as they were getting closer to the normal maturity pace with all of the August heat. Filberts were looking good and walnuts were sizing in Washington County. Pear growers continued cutting fire blight in many locations throughout the Hood River Valley. Lower valley pear growers were preparing for the Bartlett harvest. Apples and pears were being picked around The Dalles, and a number of new orchards are starting to show up in the Wamic area.

Nurseries and Greenhouses: Greenhouses were busy getting fall plants started including decorative and vegetable starts. Nurseries were planting shrubs. Nurseries also remained busy with watering, plant up-keep activities, and rotating potted plants to new locations.

Livestock, Range and Pasture: Supplemental feeding and watering continued as the State experienced another hot, dry week. Pastures and range were drying up and water sources were starting to dry up in some locations. Livestock were still in good shape, especially those on irrigated and higher elevation pastures.

Soil Moisture-Week Ending 08/17/08

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Topsoil	49	28	23	0
Subsoil	34	42	24	0

Crop Progress-Week Ending 08/17/08

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5 year average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Alfalfa hay, third cutting	34	11	24	5
Winter wheat harvested	93	86	93	90
Barley harvested	89	64	86	79
Spring wheat harvested	86	71	77	76
Days suitable for fieldwork	6.9	6.5	6.7	6.8

Crop Condition-Week Ending 08/17/08

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Winter wheat	10	31	40	17	2
Spring wheat	9	43	30	14	4
Barley	2	27	44	25	2
Corn	0	0	26	57	17
Range and pasture	22	32	34	12	0

WESTERN OREGON

CLACKAMAS: It was very hot this week. Grass seed harvest is nearing its end. Late blackberry varieties are coming on. Spring grains are ready. Gravenstein apples are starting to fall. It is time to wean spring calves as well as time to spray blackberries.

COOS/CURRY: Very little wind this past week so fog has extended the grazing season on lowland coastal pastures, but everything else is dry and brown. Temperatures were near the 5-year average for the week, both in Coos and Northern Curry and in Southern Curry County. Bandon (Coos & Northern Curry): Low temperature for the period was 53.06 degrees, 4.37 degrees above the 5-year average. High temperature for the period was 65.81 degrees, 3.46 degrees below the 5-year average. Precipitation for the period was 0.04 inches, compared to a 5-year (including drought years 2003-2004) average of 0.00 inches. Precipitation for Current weather year, (began 10/07) stands at 50.81 inches, 4.63 inches below the 5 year average. Historical average precipitation through August is 58.74 inches. Brookings (Southern Curry): Low temperature for the period was 54.82 degrees, 3.65 degrees above the 5-year average. High temperature for the period was 69.22 degrees, 2.85 degrees below the 5-year average. Precipitation for the period was 0.02 inches (over 2 days) compared to a 5-year (including drought years 2003-2004) average of .01 inches. Precipitation for Current weather year, (began 10/07) stands at 64.31 inches, 16.69 inches below the 5 year average. Historical average precipitation for Brookings area through August is 71.53 inches.

DOUGLAS: Blazing hot temperatures late in the week have people focusing on irrigation. Harvest of plums is complete, early apples are beginning, and Bartlett pears will begin harvest in one week. Blueberry harvest is winding down with just a few late fields to go. Yields on blueberries were down about 15 percent from last year. Yields on apples and pears look like they will be up about 10-15 percent from last year. Wine grape crops look good. They are getting closer to normal maturity pace with all of our August heat. Only about 5-7 days behind normal now.

JACKSON: There is still some grain being harvested. Second cutting of grass hay is being made and some second and third of alfalfa. Some ground preparation work is ongoing for weed control. Pears are looking good but are a bit behind last year. Bartlett's are being picked. Peaches are also being picked and wild blackberries are also now ready. Lots of good fresh vegetables are available at roadside stands and farmer's markets. Corn, peppers, tomatoes, and summer squash are being harvested. Greenhouses are getting started on fall plants, both vegetable and decorative plant starts. Nurseries are mostly doing plant up-keep, watering, and feeding. Cattle are looking quite good on good pastures. The dry ground is really dead. Other livestock are doing well. It has been another hot and dry week. Lots of irrigation is taking place in an attempt to try to keep pastures up.

JOSEPHINE: A miserable hot week with record breaking temperatures. High temperatures ranged from 100 to 113 degrees with heavy smoke. It was hard to breathe and visibility was limited.

Plants were showing stress from the heat and drying winds. Watering is an important issue. Saturday, Sunday, and Monday brought lightning storms. The situation is very explosive here! Truck gardens are selling melons locally grown now. Quality has been poor in crops that needed warm, dry nighttime temperatures from 50 to 60 degrees earlier in season. Corn is showing a poor pollination, while tomatoes have been slow to ripen. Animals appear to be doing well on irrigated acreage. Pastures look good. A few farmers have taken second cutting hay off of grass fields.

MARION: This past week started out with nice summer weather with highs in the 80's, and then turned very hot with highs in the 100 degree range on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Sunday was mostly cloudy with the high temperatures dropping down to the low 80's. I hear thunder and see rain falling this morning as I write this report. The very warm late week weather was good for those rushing to finish grass seed and grain harvest. The thunderstorm activity and moisture that came with it slowed down those who hadn't yet finished their grass seed and grain harvest. I see some combines already parked in their sheds as though they are stored until next season. Most grass fields look like they are threshed, as do most wheat fields. Hops harvest has started. Beans, corn, flowers, and other specialty crops continue to be harvested as they become ready. Flower and vegetable seed fields are currently being harvested. Cane berry growers are taking out the old vines and training up the new vines for next year's crop. Oregon State Fair begins this Friday, August 22nd.

POLK: Hot and dry temperatures were well above normal with highs in the upper 90's to 100 degree range for several days. A heat advisory was posted for Western Oregon. Harvest of small grains continues. Baling of grass and wheat straw continues.

TILLAMOOK: It was warm and dry most of the week. There was some fog inland during mornings that kept the temperatures down. Grass hay is being harvested.

WASHINGTON: Grass for seed harvest is finished and yields were variable throughout the county. Red clover is ready for the swather with the continual hot weather. Field corn is tasseling and setting ears. Growers are baling wheat straw. Everbearing strawberries continue to produce while blackberries are just about ripe. Filberts look good and walnuts are sizing. Sweet corn is available at some farmer's markets and roadside stands. Other vegetables are very abundant. Tomatoes are yielding succulent fruit. Nurseries are rotating potted plants from high plantations to low, and are planting and irrigating new shrubs. Buffalo and calves look good. Beef cows and calves also look good where water and supplemental feed is plentiful. The top high temperatures were 102 on Thursday, 101 on Friday, and 100 on Saturday. No rain or even mist received.

EASTERN OREGON

BAKER/UNION: Grain harvest is well underway. Some producers are reporting higher yields with lower test weights.

GILLIAM: Spring grain is being harvested. Test weights in fall wheat are low.

HARNEY: Weather has been hot and dry. Most second cutting alfalfa was completed. Desert ranges have cured and declined in quality. Insufficient livestock water is limiting use in some areas. Livestock were performing well on higher elevation ranges that are still in relatively good condition.

HOOD RIVER: High temperatures ranged from the low 80's up to 105 degrees. Summer orchard operations continued work throughout the Hood River Valley. Pear growers continued cutting fire blight in many locations throughout the valley. Lower valley pear growers prepared for Bartlett harvest.

KLAMATH: Hot temperatures during the week with a little rain received during the middle of the week. Grain harvest is underway.

MALHEUR: Wheat conditions looked good until harvest started. Producers are reporting "average" to "below average" production. Many think heat during the critical growing stage caused shrinkage.

SHERMAN: After last weeks thunder and lightning, a few relatively nice days with some very hot temperatures! Hopefully it will be cooler and windier for the County Fair next week.

UMATILLA: Potato yield prospects have rebounded considerably from poor up to average after the cold spring. Onions were progressing nicely. It is too early to assess damage from previous week's hail storm. Alfalfa looks good. Grass seed and wheat yields vary greatly.

WASCO: Grain harvest is nearly completed in all areas. Alfalfa haying and irrigation were active all week. Apple and pears are being picked in The Dalles area. There are a number of orchards starting to show up in the Wamic area. Grapes are coloring in their maturity cycle. Dry land range and pastures are rapidly being depleted. Stock watering is becoming a premium, as ponds and springs continue to dry up. Livestock, however, continue to be doing well, and no early sales are being reported.

Weather data for selected stations in Oregon, Week ending: August 17, 2008 (as of 11:00 am) ¹

Station	Air temperature ²				Growing degree days ³		Last week precip. ⁴			Season cum. precipitation ⁵			
	Low	High	Avg.	DFN ⁶	Total	DFN ⁶	Total inches	DFN ⁶	Days ⁷	Total inches	DFN ⁶	Pct. normal	Days ⁷
COASTAL AREAS													
Astoria/Clatsop	54	78	63	+3	92	+15	-	-0.28	-	60.97	-4.72	93	193
Bandon ⁸	54	66	59	+1	67	+4	0.04	-0.17	2	52.64	-5.75	90	182
Crescent City	51	63	57	-3	48	-15	-	-0.21	-	44.31	-20.40	68	121
Florence	47	77	61	-1	79	+2	0.02	-0.27	1	85.84	10.08	113	166
North Bend	52	70	60	+0	71	-1	0.05	-0.16	3	57.96	-4.83	92	155
Tillamook	54	77	64	+6	102	+36	-	-0.36	-	57.04	-30.65	65	179
WILLAMETTE VALLEY													
Aurora ⁸	55	103	76	+11	186	+70	0.01	-0.20	1	41.71	1.16	103	170
Corvallis	48	98	74	+8	169	+57	-	-0.21	-	42.33	0.07	100	156
Detroit Lake ⁸	51	103	76	+14	185	+96	-	-0.28	-14	89.55	22.66	134	183
Eugene	44	99	74	+7	169	+43	-	-0.24	-	34.65	-14.16	71	141
Hillsboro	50	103	74	+9	168	+56	-	-0.25	-	30.70	-6.35	83	143
McMinnville	48	102	74	+8	166	+49	-	-0.14	-	33.84	-8.93	79	148
Portland	59	101	77	+9	193	+60	-	-0.24	-	32.99	-2.75	92	161
Salem	50	100	75	+9	179	+60	-	-0.14	-	35.97	-2.78	93	136
SW VALLEYS													
Grants Pass	52	106	78	+7	198	+46	-	-0.11	-	28.20	-2.55	92	124
Medford	53	108	81	+9	218	+57	-	-0.14	-	16.38	-2.21	88	104
Roseburg	51	102	78	+9	194	+57	-	-0.14	-	31.86	-0.53	98	139
NORTH CENTRAL													
Condon	46	99	72	+7	159	+49	-	-0.14	-	11.74	-1.96	86	104
Echo ⁸	50	106	77	+5	191	+35	-	-0.07	-	7.79	-0.95	89	98
Heppner	50	102	74	+6	172	+36	-	-0.14	-	13.70	0.14	101	118
Hermiston	52	107	77	+5	189	+33	-	-0.07	-	7.64	-1.10	87	83
Madras ⁸	47	103	75	+9	175	+57	-	-0.14	-	7.90	-2.26	78	98
Moro	49	104	75	+7	174	+50	-	-0.10	-	9.46	-1.40	87	87
Parkdale ⁸	48	101	73	+7	164	+45	-	-0.14	-	21.99	-8.51	72	111
Pendleton	51	108	78	+6	196	+39	-	-0.14	-	10.93	-0.83	93	97
Prairie City ⁸	47	103	75	+9	175	+57	-	-0.14	-	7.90	-2.26	78	98
The Dalles	58	109	80	+14	214	+96	-	-0.13	-	12.95	0.70	106	82
SOUTH CENTRAL													
Agency Lake ⁸	43	96	69	+7	135	+47	0.08	-0.10	1	12.89	-2.98	81	96
Bend	41	100	71	+8	145	+52	-	-0.14	-	11.69	0.25	102	77
Burns	40	98	70	+6	141	+39	-	-0.14	-	9.00	-0.66	93	101
Christmas Valley ⁸	37	98	68	+2	131	+8	-	-0.14	-	7.34	-4.77	61	72
Klamath Falls	44	97	72	+5	153	+34	0.04	-0.10	1	9.72	-3.52	73	84
Klamath Falls ⁸	46	97	73	+7	166	+47	-	-0.14	-	10.96	-2.28	83	108
Lakeview	44	96	70	+6	144	+36	-	-0.14	-	9.22	-6.14	60	69
Lorella ⁸	41	98	69	+3	137	+18	-	-0.14	-	9.40	-3.84	71	110
Redmond	37	106	71	+7	152	+43	-	-0.14	-	2.04	-6.28	25	42
Worden ⁸	39	97	68	+1	125	+6	-	-0.14	-	8.38	-4.86	63	102
NORTHEAST													
Baker City	40	98	67	+0	120	+5	-	-0.21	-	9.90	-0.55	95	116
Joseph	42	91	67	+7	120	+43	-	-0.27	-	18.93	-5.40	78	130
La Grande	45	102	72	+4	160	+25	-	-0.21	-	14.22	-2.82	83	105
Union	44	99	70	+4	144	+27	-	-0.21	-	11.25	-2.08	84	102
SOUTHEAST													
Ontario	54	99	77	+3	189	+18	-	-0.07	-	6.33	-3.09	67	71
Rome	48	100	73	+3	164	+22	-	-0.12	-	7.07	-0.95	88	86

¹ Summary based on NWS data. Copyright 2008: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

² Air temperature in degrees Fahrenheit.

³ Growing degree days base-50 degrees Fahrenheit.

⁴ Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

⁵ Season cumulative precipitation starts September 1, 2007.

⁶ DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-1990 normals period).

⁷ Precipitation days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

⁸ Agri-Met weather stations.